

Subject: ANS Travelling Exhibition,
"A Bird's Eye of Coinage"

Mackean, J. Arthur
[John Herron Art Institute
Indianapolis, IA]
[Toledo Museum of Art
Toledo, OH]

1926-1935

ART ASSOCIATION OF INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA
THE JOHN HERRON ART INSTITUTE

PENNSYLVANIA AND SIXTEENTH STREETS

April 14th, 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood, Secretary
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway Between 155th & 156th St.,
New York City, New York.

My dear Mr. Wood:-

Would it be possible for you to assemble an interesting exhibition of coins which could be sent on a rotary circuit to the various museums of America? The Association of Art Museum Directors meet in Washington, D. C., May 10th and 11th, at which time the various rotary exhibitions are presented, and I would like very much to have included in this list an exhibition of coins. Most of the museums represented have some one or more rotary exhibitions which they have inaugurated, and it would be interesting if you could inaugurate a numismatic exhibition from your museum. If not can you tell me to whom I can apply.

Sincerely yours,

J. Arthur MacLean,
Director

JAM/NA

26 centuries
10 to a century.
260.

How long.
what expense do we have?
Insurance
Photog. Key. labels;

April 22nd, 1926

Mr. J. Arthur MacLean
Director, Art Assoc'n. of Indianapolis
Pennsylvania & 16th Streets
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Mr. MacLean:

Your letter of April 14th was placed before the Council at its recent meeting, and the action taken was to the following effect:

We could prepare a very comprehensive exhibit similar to that which we laid out here - which might be termed "A bird's-eye of Coinage". We grouped in five small cases twenty-six rows of coins by Centuries. We can form a similar exhibit of about ten representative coins to a Century, or about 260 coins in all. These would be labelled and a series of photographs would accompany them as a key to the laying out of them.

Will you kindly advise how soon you would desire this exhibit; how long it would be on tour, and what expense would be involved as far as this Society is concerned; also, what provision is made for insurance. We are not prepared to go to much expense in the matter.

If you will let me know more details as soon as possible, I can begin to make the selection, and arrange the collection in small travelling cases, so that the coins could be taken out easily and rearranged whenever they are on view.

Very truly yours,

Curator

THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART
FOUNDED BY EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY
BLAKE-MORE GODWIN, DIRECTOR MRS. GEORGE W. STEVENS, ASST. DIRECTOR
MONROE STREET AT SCOTTWOOD AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO

July 8th, 1929.

American Numismatic Society,
Broadway,
Between 155th and 156th Streets,
New York City, New York.

Gentlemen:

With a book in process on the Art of the Orient, I would like to secure the following for illustration, if you are willing that it should be so used:

Shin Coin. T'sin Dynasty.

What acknowledgment would you prefer? Any charges incurred in procuring a glossy photographic print of the above, please forward with the print.

Gratefully yours,

J. Arthur MacLean,
Curator of Oriental Art.

JAM:KM

Is such a coin in existence
in your collections?

July 17th, 1929

The Toledo Museum of Art,
Toledo Ohio- Attention of Mr. J.A.MacLean

Dear MacLean;

The coins of Tsin Dynasty - Shin Coin- are undoubtedly the large size Pan Liangs similar to the rubbing enclosed. All numismatic treatise describe these to this dynasty. We have a great many of these coins. Unfortunately, just now we are all torn up. We are building a larger addition to our present museum and changing very drastically our present museum, therefore our photographing is haphazard. If we should send you copies of these coins could you photograph them and then return them? If not, I do not know when we could photograph them

Yours very truly

Curator.

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MONROE STREET AT SCOTTWOOD AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO

August 6th,
1929

Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway near 155th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Wood:

Greetings! Many thanks for your letter of July 17th. The particular coin which I am keen about is that which was issued by the Prime Minister, Omo, First Century, A.D., who established the Shin Dynasty: in other words, I am trying to locate a coin which is identical with that reference which appears in Okakura's Ideals of the East, page 34, where he states:

"So strong indeed was the influence of Confucian thought at this period that in the first century of the Chinese era, a Prime Minister, Omo by name, ascended the Dragon Throne in its authority," etc.,

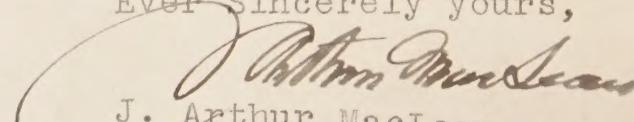
"He established the Dynasty of Shin and it is supposed from the fact that during his short reign of fourteen years, his coins reached all parts of the known world, that it was then that the name of China (Shin-Land) was first given."

He was killed in the year 23 A.D.

My remembrance of the historical reference to the first name of China or Shin-Land took place much earlier and I have been in the habit of referring to the Tsin Dynasty, which is pre-Han.

What is your information in regard to this slightly confusing reference? If you have any coins of this particular time as referred to in the reference on page 34, and could send them to me, I would be very glad to photograph them and send you a set of the photographs.

Ever sincerely yours,


J. Arthur MacLean
Curator of Oriental Art.

August 16th, 1929.

Mr. J. Arthur Mac Lean,
Toledo Museum of Art,
Toledo, Ohio.

My dear Mac Lean:

I can find no coins attributed between the years 9 and 23 A.D. to any Shin Dynasty. There were many coins issued at this period but all have been assigned to the usurper Wang Mang, who was going strong at just the same time. All I have access to now, are the numismatic books on China. Our historical books are packed away, therefore I am afraid we cannot help you, by fastening any especial coin to the man you want.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART
FOUNDED BY EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY
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MONROE STREET AT SCOTTWOOD AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO

November 20, 1935

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York City

Mr dear Mr. Wood:

Some years ago I saw a published work on Coins in general, but have lost track of the publication. Would you be so good as to recommend to us the best general book on Coins? Is the English authority, Head, the best man?

We do not have a Coin collection, as you know, nevertheless we are constantly presented with coins and should be in a position to give a little general data in regard to them, therefore your recommendation as to the desirable publications on the subject would be much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. Arthur MacLean,
Curator

November 22, 1935.

Mr. J. Arthur MacLean
Curator
The Toledo Museum of Art
Monroe Street at Scottwood Ave.
Toledo, Ohio.

Dear Mr. MacLean:

There is no one good general book on coins. Head's Historia Numorum is the best work in one volume on Greek coins - in fact one should not be without it. It comes in two editions and the first edition is cheaper and is about as good. For Roman coins for an easy quick reference book to use for answering questions the Momote Romane by Francesco Gnechi in the Manuali Hopli series published at Milan is, I think, the most convenient book. For general European coins the Coinage of the European Continent by W. Carew Hazlitt published through MacMillan and Company in 1893 is a pretty good book for looking up things. For United States coins A Standard Catalogue of United States Coins by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., 1 W. 47th St., New York would be all that you need for our own coins. I could give you many more references but I find that for looking up things hastily and answering questions I have used these books more than any others. There is a series of French books in several volumes that takes up the world's coinage from the fall of the Roman Empire to 1900, that is most useful, but it is rather expensive and very hard to get.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

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MONROE STREET AT SCOTTWOOD AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO

November 26, 1935

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 55th and 56th Streets,
New York City

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for your kind letter of November 22. It is exactly what we hoped you would be able to send with the possible exception of a book on Oriental Coins. Do you know of any good reference? We are going to see if we can purchase the French books on The World's Coinage.

Very truly yours,

J. Arthur MacLean,
Curator

December 3, 1935.

Mr. J. Arthur MacLean
Curator
The Toledo Museum of Art
Monroe Street at Scottwood Ave.
Toledo, Ohio.

Dear Mr. MacLean:

There is no real good book on Oriental coinage. A most useful book to have for Mohammedan coins is a Manual of Musalman Coins by O. Codrington, published by the Royal Asiatic Society, London, 1904. Although this does not describe individual coins, it tells the student everything about them, the inscriptions, mints, rulers, legends, etc. One, however, must have a smattering of Arabic to be able to use it.

Japanese coins are well covered by Coins of Japan by Neil Gordon Munro, published in Yokahama in 1904. Chinese coins except very modern struck ones are well covered by two fairly recent books - The Currency of the Far East by F. R. Schjøth, Luzac & Co., London, 1929 and the Stewart-Lockhart Collection of Chinese Copper Coins by Sir James H. Stewart-Lockhart, Kelly & Walsh, Shanghai, 1915.

The French publication for general use is the Traité de Numismatique du Moyen Âge by Engel and Serrure; Ernst Leroux, Paris, 1891 ff. This is in several volumes - the last two parts are called Traité de Numismatique Moderne et Contemporaine, 1897 and 1899.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator